

POTASSIUM IODIDE (KI) TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO SOME NORTHERN HANCOCK COUNTY RESIDENTS

Press Announcement

The Hancock County Office of Emergency Management and the Hancock County Health Department are distributing Potassium Iodide (KI) tablets to residents of the northern part of Hancock County who reside, work, and attend school within the ten-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the Beaver Valley (Shippingport) Power Station.

The distribution of the tablets is being done to insure that in the event of an accident at the Power Plant the possible exposed population will be able to take the tablets as soon as possible immediately after exposure from a radioactive cloud. Potassium Iodide (KI) is a safe and stable form of iodine that provides protection from radioiodine. Like the iodine found in table salt, radioiodine is collected and stored in the thyroid gland. KI protects the thyroid by saturating the thyroid. That in turn will allow the radioactive iodine to pass through the body via the kidneys.

Additional methods of protecting the population from the effects of a release of radioiodine are: Evacuation; Leaving the exposed area is the primary action for residents to take; Sheltering; Staying indoors with the windows and doors closed and forced ventilation shut off; Food Control; Not eating or drinking anything that may have been exposed to radioiodine.

Taking KI tablets is strictly voluntary and should only be done at the direction of the State. The KI tablets will be distributed to those residents of the northern part of Hancock County who reside, work, and attend school within the ten-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the Beaver Valley (Shippingport) Power Station at the following location and time:

August 29, 2006 The Harv at Mountaineer Park 10:00AM-6:00PM

Any decision to take the Potassium Iodide (KI) tablets is strictly voluntary.

For more information about Potassium Iodide (KI), please contact the Hancock County Health Department at (304)564-3343 or the Hancock County Office of Emergency Management at (304)564-4040.